AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a ferrule comprising the steps of:

immersing a negative electrode line and a positive electrode in an electroforming fluid in an electroforming bath;

disposing at least one dummy line in the vicinity of the negative electrode line, the dummy line including electrical insulating material on at least an outer surface thereof;

depositing metal on the negative electrode line by electroforming to form a cylindrical electroformed element in such a manner that the negative electrode line and the electrical insulating material of the dummy line are integrally embedded in the electroformed element; and

taking out at least the dummy line from the electroformed element to form a through hole for inserting an optical fiber, to obtain the ferrule made of the electroformed element.

2. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing a ferrule according claim 1, wherein the dummy line to be taken out from the electroformed element is subjected to an insulation treatment.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a ferrule comprising the steps of:

immersing a negative electrode line and a positive electrode in an electroforming fluid in an electroforming bath;

disposing at least one dummy line in the vicinity of the negative electrode line, the dummy line including an electrical insulating material on at least an outer surface thereof, and disposing at least one positioning line in the vicinity of the dummy line;

depositing metal on the negative electrode line by electroforming to form a cylindrical electroformed element in such a manner that the negative electrode line, the electrical insulating material of the dummy line, and the positioning line are integrally embedded in the electroformed element;

taking out at least the dummy line, out of the negative electrode line and the dummy line, from the electroformed element to form a through hole for inserting an optical fiber; and

taking out the positioning line from the electroformed element to form a positioning hole used when the ferrule is fitted into another ferrule, thereby to obtain the ferrule made of the electroformed element.

5. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing a ferrule according to claim 4, wherein:

the ferrule is used as a socket; and

a plug pin of a second ferrule is inserted into the positioning hole of the ferrule.

6. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing a ferrule according to claim 4, further comprising:

a plug pin fixedly attached to the positioning hole, wherein said plug pin is to be inserted into and fitted to a positioning hole of a second ferrule.

7. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing a ferrule according to claim 4, wherein the dummy line and the positioning line to be taken out from the electroformed element is subjected to an insulation treatment.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a ferrule comprising the steps of:

immersing a negative electrode line and a positive electrode in an electroforming fluid in an electroforming bath;

disposing at least one dummy line in the vicinity of the negative electrode line, the dummy line including an electrical insulating material on at least an outer surface thereof, and disposing at least one positioning line in the vicinity of the dummy line;

depositing metal on the negative electrode line by electroforming to form a cylindrical electroformed element in such a manner that the negative electrode line, the electrical insulating material of the dummy line, and the positioning line are integrally embedded in the electroformed element;

taking out at least the dummy line, out of the negative electrode line and the dummy line, from the electroformed element to form a through hole for inserting an optical fiber; and

taking out the positioning line from the electroformed element to form a positioning hole used for adjusting a position of the electroformed element when an outside shape thereof is machined, thereby to obtain the ferrule made of the electroformed element.

10. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing a ferrule according to claim 9, wherein the dummy line and the positioning line to be taken out from the electroformed element is subjected to an insulation treatment.

11. (Canceled).

12. (New) The method for manufacturing a ferrule according to claim 1, wherein the metal is concentrically deposited only around the negative electrode line.

13. (New) The method for manufacturing a ferrule according to claim 4, wherein the metal is concentrically deposited only around the negative electrode line.

14. (New) The method for manufacturing a ferrule according to claim 9, wherein the metal is concentrically deposited only around the negative electrode line.